

### *Remarks*

The present application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated January 10, 2008. Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are pending, of which Claims 1, 11 and 12 are independent. Claims 1, 11 and 12 have been amended. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-6 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0009428 (*Dow et al.*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,178,005 (*Yoshida*). Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dow et al.* in view of *Yoshida* and U.S. Patent No. 5,198,853 (*Ichihara et al.*). Claims 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dow et al.* in view of *Yoshida* and U.S. Patent No. 4,825,250 (*Miyata et al.*). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Without conceding the propriety of these rejections, Applicant submits amendments to independent Claims 1, 11 and 12 to further clarify features of the present invention.

*Dow et al.* teaches a portable, hand-held scanner. After an image is captured, the scanner enters a thumbnail view state, which allows a user to view the image and change the orientation of the captured image. The scanner of *Dow et al.*, however, reads images one-by-one and displays images one-by-one as can be seen in Figures 14A-14C of that patent.

In contrast, independent Claim 1 recites a read image signal display step of displaying a plurality of read image signals at the same time on one display screen in an orientation aligned with a predetermined orientation. The section of *Dow et al.* relied upon in the Office Action, namely column 10, rows 1-5 of corresponding U.S. Patent No.

6,784,904, discusses left and right navigation between single images. As such, *Dow et al.* is not understood to teach a read image signal display step of displaying a plurality of read image signals at the same time on one display screen in an orientation aligned with a predetermined orientation, as currently recited in independent Claim 1.

*Yoshida* was relied upon in the Office Action for teaching detecting landscape or portrait orientation of an original. This patent, however, is not understood to teach the feature of displaying a plurality of read images at the same time on a display screen in an orientation aligned with a predetermined orientation, and, therefore, cannot compensate for the above-noted deficiencies of *Dow et al.*

The other cited patents, namely, *Ichihara et al.* and *Miyata et al.*, have also been reviewed, and are not understood to teach or suggest the features lacking in both *Dow et al.* and *Yoshida*.

Independent Claims 11 and 12 have been similarly amended to recite that the read images are displayed at the same time on a display apparatus in thumbnail display form, and are, therefore, submitted to be patentable for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, *Dow et al.* and *Yoshida et al.*, whether taken individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest salient features recited in independent Claims 1, 11 and 12, and, therefore, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action. Dependent Claims 2-6, 8-10 and 13 are also submitted to be patentable by virtue of their dependencies on an allowable claim, as well as for the additional features they recite. Individual consideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present invention, as defined by Claims 1-6 and 8-13, is patentable over the cited art of record, and submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant submits that this Amendment After Final Rejection clearly places the subject application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not presented earlier, because Applicant believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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